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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Distinguished graduates to be honored" (1984). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 8928.
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MEDIA RELEASE

braun/vsl
9/17/84
state & weeklies

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES TO BE HONORED

By Virginia Vickers Braun
UM News and Publications

MISSOULA--

At University of Montana Homecoming, scheduled Oct. 26-28, the following graduates will receive the highest awards presented by the UM Alumni Association.

Receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award for outstanding service to the university state or nation are: A.B. Guthrie Jr., '23, of Choteau; brothers Theodore James, J.D. '43, and William D. "Scotty" James, '41 of Great Falls; George B. Schotte, '30, of Butte; and Herbert J. York, '50 of St. Ignatius.

Receiving the Young Alumnus Award for professional achievement or service to the university are Donna Kay Yorton Davis, '74, of Polson, and Bruce M. Whitehead, '70, of Missoula.

A.B. GUTHRIE

Guthrie is a 1923 graduate in journalism and Montana's "novelist laureate." He is working on another book. In 1950 he received the Pulitzer Prize for his 1949 book, "The Way West." "The Big Sky," another of his novels, inspired Montana's symbolic name, "The Big Sky."

Born in Indiana in 1901, Guthrie came to Choteau at age 6 when his father accepted the position of principal of Teton County Free High School. Guthrie's also owned and edited the Acantha, the Choteau newspaper, where young Bud later served as a "printer's devil."

After graduating from UM, Guthrie worked his way around the country as a ranch hand, salesman, office worker and Forest Service census taker. He eventually landed

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distinguished graduates--add one

a job on the Lexington (Ky.) Leader, where, over a period of 21 years, he worked his way up from cub reporter to executive editor.

UM awarded Guthrie an honorary doctor of literature degree in 1949. In 1982 he received the Montana Arts Council Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts.

DONNA KAY YORTON DAVIS

A self-described "Jill of many trades," Davis is a lawyer, faculty adjunct in English and humanities at Flathead Valley Community College, a writer, painter and public service worker.

Born in Anaconda, she graduated from UM in 1974 in philosophy with honors. She was a teaching assistant in philosophy and humanities at Boise State University before returning to UM, where she earned a law degree in 1978. While an undergraduate, she was elected to Phi Kappa Phi, the university's scholastic honorary, and was tapped for Mortar Board. In law school, she was president of the Women's Law Caucus and editor of the Law Review. She has also served as a clerk for the Montana Supreme Court.

"I devote a lot of time to public service work, which I believe is necessary to discharge the duties and responsibilities of living in the human community," says Donna. She is an active member of the Lake County Planning board, serves as a director of the Flathead Lakers, a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the quality of Flathead Lake, and chairs the Family Planning Advisory Board for Lake County.

She and her husband, Russell Davis, designed and built their own passive-solar house in Polson.

THEODORE JAMES

Ted was born in Sand Coulee in 1918 and graduated from UM Law School in 1943.

(more)

distinguished graduates--add two

He is a partner in the James, Gray and McCafferty law firm in Great Falls.

Active in political and civic affairs, Ted was lieutenant governor from 1964 to 1968, president of the Montana State Senate in 1964 and 1968 and a candidate for governor in 1968. He served two terms as Cascade County attorney from 1950 to 1954.

He has been appointed to many government offices, including the Boxing Commission, Board of Pardons and Parole, Montana State Highway Commission, State Advertising Board, and State Board of Bar Examiners, as well as to the Accreditation of Law Schools Committee for the American Bar Association. He was chairman of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Post-Secondary Education and chairman of the Board of Regents for the Montana University System from 1973 to 1982.

He is married to the former Lois Davenport and has two sons, a daughter, a stepson and a stepdaughter.

WILLIAM D. "SCOTTY" JAMES

A native Montanan, Scotty was born in 1915 and grew up the Stockett-Sand Coulee area near Great Falls. He majored in journalism at UM and served as editor of the Montana Kaimin. After graduating in 1941, he worked as a reporter for the Helena Independent, the Minot (N.D.) Daily News and the Helena Record-Herald. He was a staff sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

After the war, he worked for the Lewistown Democrat News and the Salt Lake Tribune before joining the staff of the Great Falls Tribune in 1947. Starting in 1951, he spent 14 years as a stringer for The New York Times and Time, Inc., which publishes Time, Life, Fortune and Sports Illustrated.

At the Tribune he worked as a reporter, Sunday editor, city editor, editorial editor and in 1968 was named executive editor. A specialist in editorial writing and political interviewing, he is greatly admired as a perceptive commentator on Montana and national issues, developments and problems. From 1974 until his retirement in

distinguished graduates--add three

July 1983, he was vice president and editor of the company.

Active in professional and civic organizations, he served as president of the Montana Associated Press Editors in 1974, and in 1978 he was among 50 journalists selected as Pulitzer Prize jurors. He was a member of the White House Conference on Aging and has been director of the Great Falls Chamber Commerce, director of the Great Falls Federal Savings and Loan Association and a member of the President's Advisory Committee for the College of Great Falls.

He is married to the former Loretto Charlotte German of Chinook.

GEORGE BALTHASER SCHOTTE

A longtime Butte businessman and former state senator, Schotte owned and operated Gamer's Confectionery and Bakery and the Butte Motor Company for more than 20 years. He also operated a construction company for 13 years.

Born in 1904 in Helena graduated from UM in 1930 with a B.A. in accounting and economics. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Harvard, is an honorary alumnus of Montana Tech and received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Carroll College in June.

Schotte was chairman of five legislative interim highway committees. He helped get Interstate 90 routed through Butte and helped enact legislation establishing the Montana Interstate Highway System.

He was a state senator in 1967. He was a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Higher Education and was instrumental in keeping Montana Tech a major unit of the University System.

For nearly 50 years Schotte served on the board for Montana Children's Home and Shodair Hospital. He has been an officer and member of numerous civic organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Butte Rotary Club, Elks, Y.M.C.A., Silver Bow Humane Society and Butte Symphony Board. This summer he was grand marshal of Butte's Fourth of July parade.

He has been married to the former Jennie Tufte for 43 years.

(more)

distinguished graduates--add four

BRUCE M. WHITEHEAD

Whitehead earned a B.A. in political science and history in 1970, a master's in public administration in 1971 and a doctorate in education in 1980. He is principal of Missoula School District #4 and has distinguished himself in the field of education.

An educational consultant, he has been a visiting assistant professor in the UM School of Education and a guest lecturer at Western Montana College. He is the author of three books on teaching: "Montana Bound: An Activity Approach to Teaching Montana History," "The Practical Side of Humanistic Teaching," and "Challenges and Changes in Teaching."

Listed in "Who's Who in the West," he has won the John F. Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts Award, Walter Amers Scholarship Award, Ernest Thomas Seaton Leadership Award and American Legion Citizenship Award.

He is married to the former Charlotte Stockard.

HERBERT JOHN YORK

In 1983 York was one of 52 science teachers in the nation selected to receive the Presidential award for Excellence in Teaching Science. The Award included \$5,000 in cash to his science department and over \$5,000 in gifts and an expense-paid trip for him and his wife to Washington, D.C., to receive the award from President Reagan.

York was born in Miles City in 1926 and has distinguished himself as a science teacher at St. Ignatius High School for the past 31 years. A 1950 UM graduate, he holds master's degrees or the equivalent from UM, the University of Wyoming and New Mexico Highlands University and has done post-master's work at UM, the University of Kansas, University of California at Berkeley and Utah State University. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1944 to 1946.

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distinguished graduates--add five

From 1958 through 1969 he received 11 National Science Foundation grants and five NSF or National Defense Education Award grants for workshops in science education or counseling. In 1969 he was cited by the National Association of Physicists for his outstanding physics course. In 1978 the UM Chemistry Department honored him with an award for his dedication to teaching chemistry, and in 1982 the National Association of Biology Teachers named him Montana Outstanding Biology Teacher.

Last year he won two awards for excellence in teaching science, including one from the National Science Foundation.

He and his wife, Merle, have four children, all of whom have attended UM. Three of their children are teachers.

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